

Interpretive Programs And Other Park Events!

Indiana Dunes State Park

1600 N. 25 E.

Chesterton, Indiana 46304

NC # (219) 926-1390

Park Manager: Brandt Baughman

Asst. Park Manager: Doug Stuke



Red-necked Phalarope

Nature Center Staff:

Brad Bumgardner

David Garner

Dawn Komaskinski

October Nature Center Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT Daily

www.interpretiveservices.in.gov

All programs are free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public after paying the park entrance fee. Our interpretive programs are designed to entertain and enrich folks of all ages. Children under 12, please bring a parent with you.

Saturday October 4

10am An Autumn Dam Hike! Fall is a great time to visit the Dune swamps... no mosquitoes! Tag along with the naturalist as we explore the Dune wetlands and take a glimpse at the beaver's lodge. Meet at the Nature Center for this hour stroll. DG

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. Visit the Nature Center to find out how you can earn special patches (and other prizes) in the state parks this year! We meet for an hour to get you started or help you along. DG

2pm Fall Color Slide Show! Bring your digital camera and pictures of the Indiana Dunes State Park to the Nature Center Auditorium. From here, we'll upload your favorite shots for a unique slideshow highlighting autumn in the dunes. Prizes for those with photos. Make sure you bring in your transfer cable or flash drive! DG

Sunday October 5

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get up close encounters with cardinals, chickadees and more! BB

2pm Way Down Yonder in the Paw Paw Patch! Strap on the hiking shoes and join us for a fresh air jaunt on Trail 2, in search of the paw paw, the Indiana banana! Bring binoculars if you have a pair, or borrow a pair of ours and meet outside the Nature Center. BB

Saturday October 11

Join us for a weekend of fun!

The annual Kids Fall Funfest occurs Saturday and Sunday at the Wilson Shelter from 12pm to 4pm. The 19th Annual Northwest Indiana Storytelling Festival takes place Saturday and Sunday in the Nature Center as well!

10:30am-3pm NWI Storytelling Festival.

Come to the Nature Center to watch some of Indiana's best storytellers weave their magic! Special sessions going on throughout the day. Check the schedule in the Nature Center for specific sessions.

12pm-4pm Kids Fall Funfest!

Spend the afternoon with the kids meandering shelter to shelter creating crafts and experiencing the season during this popular annual event! Stop by the Friends of Indiana Dunes welcome booth to pick up your \$1.00 passport that will guide you to all stops. Get your passport stamped at each station and use it to enter a raffle for unique prizes at the end of the day.

Activities include:

Apple Bobbing

Pioneer Games

Smokey Bear

French Fur Trading

Native American crafts and food

Hayrides

Songs of the Pioneers (Sat only)

Pumpkin Pie Eating Contest (Sun only)

History of Falconry (Sun only)

And More!



Saturday October 11 (Cont'd)

2pm Songs of the Pioneers! Spend an hour with Les Gustafson Zook, 2001 international autoharp champion of the world, as he presents his *Songs of the Pioneers*. The *Songs of the Pioneers* presentation is a fun, interactive and educational way to expose children (and adults) to the songs pioneers were singing as they traveled west. Les brings a car load of acoustic musical instruments and introduces each instrument with some of its history and ties the whole presentation together with pioneer experiences. This special cultural arts program takes place at the Wilson Shelter. Join us!

7pm Ghost Stories! An encore performance from the NWI Storytellers! Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium for some spooky stories that are sure to thrill you (and may also chill you)!

Sunday, October 12

12pm-3m NWI Storytelling Festival. Come to the Nature Center to watch some of Indiana's best storytellers weave their magic! Special sessions going on throughout the afternoon. Check the schedule in the Nature Center for specific sessions

12pm-4pm Kids Fall Funfest! Spend the afternoon with the kids meandering shelter to shelter creating crafts and experiencing the season during this popular annual event! Stop by the Friends of Indiana Dunes welcome booth to pick up your \$1.00 passport that will guide you to all stops. Get your passport stamped at each station and use it to enter a raffle for unique prizes at the end of the day

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- Apple Bobbing
- Pioneer Games
- Smokey Bear
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- History of Falconry (Sun only)
- And More!

2pm History of Falconry! Watch live birds of prey at the Wilson Shelter this afternoon! Join raptor rehabber and falconer Holly Meyers, as she introduces everyone to the art and history of falconry. Holly brings with her many of the birds used in falconry yesterday and today. Great family fun!

Friday October 17

6pm Campground Crafts! Send the kids over to the Campground Shelter for an hour of nature craft fun. Great fall craft fun for the kids! DG

Saturday, October 18

10am Sassafras Saunter. By this time, the fall colors should be at peak. Meet at the Nature Center for an hour stroll looking at the colors of fall. We'll check out sassafras, oak, black gum, and some of the other bright colors! BB

2pm Scatology! Scatology is the study of what!? Join us in the Nature Center for a 30 minute, fun investigate look at what animals leave behind. Think you know the scoop on poop? Come by and find out. Prizes for everyone! Great family fun! BB

Sunday, October 19

9:30am Breakfast with the Birds. Join us for our monthly birds and breakfast. We meet every month in the Nature Center bird observation room for a short discussion, and then head off on the trail in search of the morning's birds. Free coffee and donuts. Join us! BB

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get up close encounters with cardinals, chickadees and more! DG

2pm Fall Leaf Press Project. Visit the Nature Center this afternoon as we make some simple crafts using fall's beauty. We'll show you how to press and preserve fall's colors in this short, 30 minute program. Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium. Great kids program! DG



Saturday, October 25

“Howl”oween at Indiana Dunes!

Join us for a weekend of spooktacular programs! Decorate your campsite for prizes, go trick or treating, and more!

10am Whooo Goes There! Swoop into the Nature Center for a fun look at these spooky stealth pilots of the night! Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium for this 45 minute program. BB

2pm Halloween Craft Fun! Help make your site spooky today with some special camp crafts! Join Dawn at the Campground Shelter for an hour of Halloween craft fun! Join us, great program for the kids! DK

4:00pm-5:30pm Trick or Treating! Put on your best costume and take part in the Indiana Dunes trick or treating. Campers are encouraged to participate. Please note campground vehicle traffic will be limited during this hour.

5pm Campsite Decorating Contest! Judging for this year's best campsite will occur between 5-7pm. All judging slips need turned into the Campground Gate by 7pm. Winners will be posted at the Campground Gate after 7pm. Win free weekend camping passes and more!

6pm “Howl”oween in the Pet Cemetery!

Bring a jacket and a friend to hold onto for an evening stroll into what may be the spookiest part of the park! Due to popular demand, this year's hike is RSVP only. Sign up on Saturday at the Nature Center front deck. Limited to 30 participants. Children under 12 **must** bring a parent. Some short off trail hiking and a flashlight recommended for the walk back. Join us, if you dare! BB

6pm Things that Go Bump in the Night!

Enjoy an evening stroll into the dune woodlands for a search of owls, bats, spiders, and more! Due to popular demand, this year's hike is RSVP only. Sign up on Saturday at the Nature Center front deck. Limited to 30 participants. Children under 12 **must** bring a parent. Total time about one hour. Flashlight recommended for the walk back to the campsite. DG



Sunday, October 26

9am Frost on the Pumpkin Walk. Meet the Naturalist for an early morning search for ghouls, goblins, or plain ole' birds that may be out and about this new day. Bring binoculars, or borrow a pair of ours. Total time about 1 hour. Meet at the Campground Gate. BB

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get up close encounters with cardinals, chickadees and more! DG

2pm Bats Alive! Swoop into the Nature Center Auditorium as we welcome back bat rehabber Bob Walton as he explores the trials and tribulations of being a bat. Bob will also have a live bat you can see up close! Great family fun!

Find These Programs and others at Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs On-line at
www.interpretiveservices.in.gov

Make a campsite or shelter reservations at
1-866-622-6746 or
on-line at www.CAMP.IN.gov